

South Dakota National Guard

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

National Guard Soldier named SD Police Officer of the Year

PIERRE, S.D. – A Pierre area South Dakota Army National Guard Soldier was recently recognized with an award for bravery.

Officer Richard Bauman of the Pierre Police Department has been named officer of the year by the South Dakota Veterans of Foreign Wars and the Ladies Auxiliary.

Bauman is also a first lieutenant in the SDNG's 152nd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion.

Pierre Police Chief Dave Panzer said that Bauman was honored for saving a young woman's life.

According to a KCCR radio interview with Panzer, in October 2014 Bauman was able to save a woman contemplating suicide from jumping off a bridge.

"Bauman was able to talk with the woman for quite some time and was able to get close enough to grab the female as she began to go over the bridge," said Panzer.

Panzer added that it is quite an honor to receive the award and the department is very proud of Bauman.

Bauman said that he is very humbled, and sometimes he has to deal with people when they are at the lowest of their lows.

"A lot of times we deal with people at the opposite of some of our experiences in life," said Bauman during a KCCR radio interview. "We don't deal with people when they are in a high of life, we deal with people when they are at their very lows."

Bauman adds that he is fortunate to have been honored with this award.

"I feel pretty humbled knowing some of the other officers that have received this award prior to me," he said. "I'm very fortunate to work with an outstanding group of professionals. I don't do anything different than any other officers at the Pierre Police Department do."

Pierre Mayor Laurie Gill said the Pierre community is lucky to have outstanding policemen like Bauman.

Bauman has over 21 years of service in the military with the National Guard. He was also the 2013 recipient of the Lieutenant Colonel John J. Steele award, naming him the SDNG's Lieutenant of the Year.

High resolution photos are available at www.flickr.com/photos/southdakotationalguard



1st Lt. Richard Bauman.
(U.S. Army National Guard file photo)

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